

the U.S. and South Pacific theatres during World War II.

During the war, she was part of the 9th General Hospital originating in Fort Devens, MA, and then shipped to Townsville, Australia.

In 1944, she was transported to the Southwest Pacific, where she served in New Guinea during the battles that took place. She was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for her service.

On February 18, 1945, she was promoted from second lieutenant to first lieutenant.

In June of 1946, she married Fred C. Stearns from Winchester, NH, and the two had four children: Linda, Diane, Gail, and Sally.

Evelyn raised her three girls while employed at the Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont, NH, as the operating room supervisor. There, she was known as "Our mother, the owl." Tough, but fair, Evelyn didn't miss a trick.

After 22 years there, she retired in 1982.

Evelyn is known around the city of Claremont for her daily walks, often in excess of 5 miles a day, up until the age of 98. She also found great joy in maintaining her home inside and out until the day she left, 6 months ago. Her work ethic exhausted her children and grandchildren, who were amazed at her tenacity.

She continues to be an avid bridge player, and enjoys crosswords and reading mysteries.

Among her family, Evelyn has seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.●

TRIBUTE TO WENDY DiVECCHIO

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Wendy DiVecchio on becoming the chief executive officer of the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, GLVAR. It gives me great pleasure to recognize DiVecchio's recent success and her dedication to the great State of Nevada.

Founded in 1947, GLVAR has always led our State in professionalism. GLVAR, the Nevada representative for the National Association of Realtors, is the largest professional organization within southern Nevada, providing 13,000 of its members educational resources, professional training, and political representation. GLVAR has truly made an impact on our State, specifically in Las Vegas.

As a longtime resident of Las Vegas, DiVecchio has served in several different departments within the GLVAR for over 17 years, holding many of the company's crucial positions. Over the years, DiVecchio served as educational director, national chairwoman for local and State Realtor associations, and interim CEO. Recognizing her exceptional efforts, DiVecchio also earned the Realtor Certified Executive designation from the National Association of Realtors. While working full-time at GLVAR, she also earned a bachelor's

and master's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix.

In her new role, DiVecchio will oversee more than 30 employees and all other aspects of the GLVAR, including its move into a new headquarters located in southern Las Vegas. Although she will be faced with more responsibility, DiVecchio has proven she is up to the task and will succeed to her fullest potential.

As Nevada's senior Senator, I applaud DiVecchio's impressive feats and commend her for demonstrating such valuable commitment and loyalty to GLVAR. I am both humbled and honored by her hard work, and I am proud to call her a fellow Nevadan. Today I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Wendy DiVecchio on her recent promotion to GLVAR's CEO and wish her well in her future endeavors. I give my deepest appreciation for all that she has done for the Silver State.●

TRIBUTE TO STACEY ESCALANTE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Stacey Escalante of Las Vegas. Stacey is a Nevada mother who battled cancer and won. Ever since she defeated cancer, Stacey has taken herself to new heights and translated her strength into action. Her story makes us all proud to call Nevada home.

Stacey Escalante was diagnosed with stage 3 skin cancer over 10 years ago when she was still a news reporter for KVBC, now KSNV-TV. Up until this point, she was a model for health, but as we all know, cancer is a disease of its own. After several medical procedures, constant trips to the doctor, Stacey had to endure years of screenings and follow-up medical procedures before the cancer finally went into remission. During this time, she was forced to take a leave of absence from her job in order to recover. Even worse, she had to spend an extended period of time away from her family and friends.

During this recovery, Stacey wanted to come back home. She knew she would recover if she got to be at home surrounded by her family and coworkers who cared deeply about her. Fortunately, Stacey was able to return home and be with her family and friends; there she continued to fight cancer tooth and nail.

After she recovered, Stacey didn't just go back to work and pick up where she left off. Instead, Stacey became a cancer survivor, willing to stand up for cancer patients and those unaware of the dangers that tanning beds can cause to the human body. Stacey also remains incredibly active, a hard-working single mom who is still dedicated to living a healthy lifestyle. Despite time away from her career, Stacey worked through the setbacks and is now a publicist at Orca Communications and continues to have an exciting career in public relations.

Stacey's battle with cancer and getting to where she is today is a testament to her determination. She has a passionate story to tell, and I believe that she will continue to inspire others to do the same. She epitomizes what it means to fight back and go even further by spreading the word about the dangers posed by tanning beds and advocate for other women's health issues. I am truly inspired by her story.

I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Stacey Escalante for her perseverance and willingness to share her story and get involved to make the great State of Nevada an even stronger, healthier State. I wish her continued efforts the absolute best. I will continue to pray for her as well as her wonderful family and friends who stood by her side every step of the way.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATT JONKEY

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate LTC Matt Jonkey on completing his master of arts degree in security studies at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security, CHDS. It gives me great pleasure to recognize him for his recent success and his continued dedication to serving the great State of Nevada.

CHDS is our Nation's epicenter for homeland security education located at the Naval Postgraduate School, NPS. Among the many programs CHDS offers, its masters program is exceptionally prestigious and provides its graduates with a vast array of useful skills. Additionally, the program offers extensive analysis of the security operation within the United States. To complete this intense 18-month program, CHDS graduates must exercise unconventional critical thinking skills, advanced leadership tactics, and develop a comprehensive understanding of security policy and operations.

In addition to graduating from the University of Nevada at Reno with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, lieutenant colonel Jonkey also managed to build an impressive career within the Nevada National Guard. He has held several positions with many responsibilities, ranging from aviation management to weapons of mass destruction response. Currently, lieutenant colonel Jonkey serves as commander of the 92nd WMD-CST where he oversees the Nevada National Guard's response to weapons of mass destruction and other HAZMAT-related disasters in support of civil authorities. Furthermore, lieutenant colonel Jonkey is also an outstanding father to his two daughters and a loving husband to his wife, Ashley.

During his time in the CHDS program, lieutenant colonel Jonkey engaged in strategic and organizational debate with high-level, national security operatives across the country. Additionally, lieutenant colonel Jonkey

completed a thesis on government drones and the Department of Defense's abilities to respond to homeland disasters. After a rigorous 18-month online and in-residence program, lieutenant colonel Jonkey graduated from the CHDS program on December 16, 2016.

I commend lieutenant colonel Jonkey for his unwavering dedication to his career and his courageous contributions to Nevada. His character is truly admirable and stands as a shining example for future generations. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I applaud lieutenant colonel Jonkey's steadfast allegiance to the Silver State and his determination to complete this highly esteemed milestone.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating lieutenant colonel Matt Jonkey for his recent achievement and his service to Nevada. I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT K. SCHRATZ

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th birthday of Robert K. Schratz, a WWII veteran and an incredible family man. I am proud to honor him for reaching such an impressive milestone in his life, and I want to acknowledge his unwavering courage and service to our Nation.

Mr. Schratz, an avid outdoorsman and Eagle Scout, was born in Pittsburgh, PA, on January 25, 1917. As a graduate from Carnegie Tech with a degree in civil engineering, Schratz went on to work for the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad as a design engineer. However, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted into the U.S. Army Air Corps.

In 1944, Schratz graduated from the Air Corps as a multiengine pilot and a second lieutenant. He flew over 168 missions, including the Berlin Airlift, and served a 4-year Pentagon assignment. Over several years, Schratz was stationed all over the world, including Texas, Mississippi, Washington, DC, Alabama, England, Germany, and Japan. Schratz was also stationed at Stead Air Force Base in Nevada, a place he truly admired and would eventually call home. After retiring from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel, Schratz and his beloved wife, Barbara, permanently moved to Reno, NV, where Schratz worked for the City of Reno Engineer's office for over a decade.

As a World War II veteran, Schratz's commitment to his country and his dedication to his family and community will be preserved for generations to come. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility to honor these brave individuals, and I remain committed to upholding this promise for veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Additionally, I am pleased to recognize Schratz for passing on his legacy of serving our country through several generations. Lieutenant Colonel Schratz's son, Robert K. Schratz II, served as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps while his son, Mark Schratz, also served in the U.S. Air Force. His grandson, Wayne Cates, served in the U.S. Navy, and his great-granddaughter, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Emily Cates, currently serves in the U.S. Navy. I truly commend these members of the Schratz family and am grateful for their devotion to protecting our Nation's freedoms.

I applaud Robert K. Schratz for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication to his family and community earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. Today I am honored to commend Mr. Schratz and celebrate an inspiring milestone achieved by such an upstanding Nevadan.●

RECOGNIZING KIT'S KITCHEN

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a great small business and charitable organization that is leading by example, serving the community, and making a difference in the great State of Nevada. Chanthy Walsh and her husband own a nonprofit restaurant called KIT's Kitchen, which is located in Henderson, NV. The name stems from the nonprofit foundation they run called Kids in Transition. Both organizations work side by side to help those in need.

Since November 2016, KIT's Kitchen has been training underprivileged youth, while providing affordable meals to the local community. This restaurant provides its volunteers with real work experience and teaches them what it takes to succeed in the restaurant and hospitality industry. To me, it is more than just learning about the restaurant; these kids are being taught hard work, about giving back to their community, and what it means to make a commitment and be held accountable to it—values that go beyond the workplace.

In addition to their impressive restaurant, Mrs. Walsh and her husband, Tim, direct a nonprofit called the Kids in Transition Foundation, which is designed to help young people build a successful career. This foundation provides meals, scholarships, financial aid, and mentoring advice to Nevada's youth. Together, these efforts are building a better future for Nevada.

As a father, I understand firsthand how much of an asset Chanthy Walsh and her work is to the Silver State. Considering these young Nevadans are the future, I am proud to see Ms. Walsh strive to make Nevada brighter every single day. It is this dedication to community and giving back that makes a difference in so many people's lives.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me and recognizing this organization, its employees, and its impressive leader. Chanthy Walsh provides an outstanding service to the local community and to our great State. As Nevada's senior Senator, I am humbled by her efforts and a true commitment to making a difference in people's lives. I hope others can look to her for inspiration on how to make their community a better place for everyone.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory.

I am fortunate to represent Maryland, a State that plays a leading role in science, technology, and innovation. From NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Maryland is at the frontier of discovery and innovation. Among Maryland's leaders in space, science, and innovation is the Applied Physics Laboratory, or APL.

From its humble beginnings in a converted auto dealership in Silver Spring, MD, to its current state-of-the-art facility in Howard County, APL has designed, built, and launched countless spacecraft and instruments. Like the Goddard Space Flight Center, APL provides a great economic boost for Maryland, employing thousands of Marylanders and generating \$1 billion in annual revenues. APL serves both civil and national security clients, in areas from homeland protection and undersea warfare to missile systems and biomedicine.

Early on the morning of July 14, 2015, along with representatives from NASA and the Southwest Research Institute, and my old friend Dr. Tom Krimigis, I was able to visit APL to witness the Pluto flyby of the spacecraft New Horizons. I waited eagerly as New Horizons flew 7,800 miles above the surface of Pluto, making it the first spacecraft to explore the dwarf planet. The excitement and pride in the room was palpable. Maryland and the Applied Physics Laboratory were once again playing a critical role in the history of human discovery.

I am grateful for the work that APL has done. And I look forward to the work that APL will continue to do, well into the future. I join my Colleague, Senator BEN CARDIN, in sponsoring a resolution congratulating the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab on the 75th anniversary of the Lab's founding.

Humanity has long asked: From where did we come? And are we alone? Places like APL will help us answer fundamental questions like these. I am proud to represent them here in the